

EXT. APPLE TREE - DAY - ESTABLISHING

A tree branch filled with immaculate looking apples, each with a private leaf leading up to the apple entrance door -- a worm suburbia. Except one of the apples is wrinkled and unhealthy.

RICHARD (V.O.)  
It's not that I like being poor. No,  
that can't be. It's just that, well,  
I keep trying to make it, but I  
can't... I can't figure out what I'm  
doing wrong. I'd sell a pair of my  
hearts for the answer. Hmm, if only  
it was that easy.

INT. RICHARD'S WRINKLED APPLE

A modest home. RICHARD THE WORM picks up a book "Notes From Underground". He has two mittens acting as hands.

A screeching sound from the kitchen startles him.

RICHARD (V.O.)  
Yet, one thing I can figure out is  
that I have a huge expense sitting  
on my clitellum.

In the adjoining kitchen, PENNY battles with the JUICE MAKER. She's a feisty young worm-girl with big lips and a bright bow.

PENNY  
(lovingly)  
Richard, my slimy...

RICHARD  
Oh geez, please don't tell me the  
juice maker bit the dust.

PENNY  
Again.

RICHARD  
I just bought it --

PENNY  
Like two seasons ago. And I am not  
decomposing those old leftovers for  
the second night in a row.

Penny stomps in with the battle worn juice maker in hand. She aims at Richard with her eyes, ready to fire.

PENNY

I'm not gonna insult your  
intelligence with a threat. I'm just  
wondering what you value more -- me  
or this pain-in-the-clitellum?

Richard sighs -- he has to tell her.

RICHARD

The truth is, I'd give a pair of my  
hearts to get you the juice maker  
you want.

PENNY

My slimy...

Penny melts. She hops toward Richard --

-- as the door swings open. CASH barges in. Sporting cool  
shades, he's the worm that never grew up.

CASH

Yo, yo, yo. How's it hanging, my  
bisexual creeps?

RICHARD

Close the door, Cash. You're letting  
the fragrance out.

CASH

Who's ready to get down and wiggle?

PENNY

Why? Did someone finally find a job?

CASH

I gotz some big gees coming in.

RICHARD

About time. You can get off  
unemployment and quit lying around.

CASH

Nah, it's better than that. My sibling  
Billy sends wishes from The Big Apple.

Cash whips out a check. He swings it and bounces with glee.

RICHARD (V.O.)

I must look like an idiot next to  
such filthy rich pests.

CASH

And the best part -- Billy is gonna slither in for a visit.

PENNY

(oh my goodness)  
Oh my hummus, you know what that means?

RICHARD

Perhaps take the check to the apple bank, save for a rainy --

PENNY AND CASH

Shopping spree!

INT. TV SHOWROOM APPLE - LATER

Richard, Penny, and Cash stand in front of a new \$299 TV.

RICHARD (V.O.)

First, we start with the absolute necessities. Necessities that I, personally, don't waste my money on.

CASH

Hmm, this one's OK. But I need something more... me.

RICHARD

You want a TV that doesn't work?

PENNY (O.S.)

Yoo-hoo, my slimies. This one just crept out.

Penny stands in front of a large \$999 wide-screen. CASH strolls past Penny to the next TV. The biggest one in the room.

CASH

And this sexy egg is crawling back with me.

Richard glances at the price tag -- \$2,999.

RICHARD

Can your apple stem foundation handle it?

INT. CASH'S APPLE - DAY

The huge TV stands from floor to ceiling. The room has little else.

RICHARD (V.O.)  
Of course, a few other things had to  
be upgraded to, say, fit in.

A new couch appears in front of the TV.

RICHARD (V.O.)  
I'm not sure how much money Cash  
got. Not that I'm interested. I  
mean, I get by, but... Geez.

A new carpet appears. New wallpaper. New lamps. New speakers.  
The room is packed.

RICHARD (V.O.)  
If I wanted all this, I'd have to  
take out an apple equity loan, maybe  
even dig into my retirement.

INT. CASH'S APPLE - EVENING

Richard peeks through the door. He holds a FANCY JUICE MAKER.

RICHARD  
Cash? Have you seen Penny? I got this  
new thing, but now I can't find --

Penny then Cash pop out their heads on opposite sides of a  
blanket. They were clearly engaged in some hot worm-on-worm  
sixty-nine action.

CASH  
Ah, hey Rich... my main worm.

PENNY  
Wow, is that the Juice Master 1,000?

RICHARD  
Geez Penny, my clitellum wasn't fat  
enough for you, so you wriggled off  
to ride someone else's?

PENNY  
Ah, slimy, don't be silly. We were  
just planning your surprise birthday  
bash.

CASH  
Yeah, that's right. Cause Billy is  
slithering in the same night. So we  
figured to have, like, a super  
double party.

RICHARD  
 (sarcastic)  
 In that case, I apologize for  
 shattering my surprise.

Richard slams the door.

EXT. CASH'S APPLE - NIGHT

The apple is jumping to the beat -- must be a good party.

RICHARD (V.O.)  
 I'm the scum of the earth. And as  
 the nuisance that I am, I have no  
 choice but to crawl back to Penny.  
 Wait... I should be mad -- she  
 cheated on me. But she was right --  
 I treated her like dirt. Still, she  
 must be first to apologize. Then why  
 am I crawling back to her? I know,  
 I'll tell Penny I didn't come for  
 her or her party -- I only stopped  
 by for financial advice from Big  
 Apple Billy.

A banner hangs over the door, "Welcome, Billy". Another banner  
 lays on the ground, "Happy Brithday, Ri..." The rest of it sits  
 in a GARBAGE BIN, which looks like an old moth cocoon.

Penny runs out.

PENNY  
 Oh, slimy, I knew you'd crawl by. I  
 knew you'd still want to be friends.  
 Slither on. The party is grinding.

RICHARD  
 Except I didn't come here for the  
 party. I, ah, I know I didn't treat  
 you like the best worm in my apple,  
 and --

PENNY  
 Don't be silly. Follow me, I'll show  
 you the new purse Cash got me. It's  
 organic.

Richard looks away. He glances up at the straining stalk.

RICHARD  
 How much crap has Cash got in there?

The apple stalk cracks. Penny looks up, horrified.

PENNY

Oh, my...

RICHARD

Stay here, I'll handle it.

Ignoring him, she runs to the apple.

PENNY

My new purse.

She hops inside. The apple breaks off the branch and PLUMMETS down. CRASH. Apple pieces go flying.

Richard stares, open-mouthed. After a second, he slumps.

RICHARD

Penny... My slimy...

Richard pulls on the happy birthday banner. The end pops out of the garbage bin along with a crumbled piece of paper.

He unravels the paper, scans it.

RICHARD

What's this? Billy's handwriting.

(reading)

Dear Cash, blah blah blah, I got fired at The Big Apple.

(reaction)

What?

(reading)

I'm heading back home. I'm attaching a check for my winter cocoon. Love, Billy.

FADE TO BLACK.